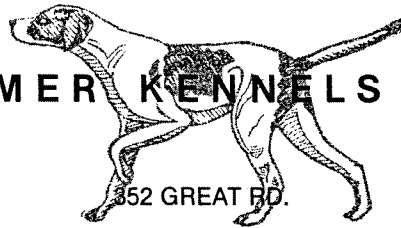


BOS

DOGS BOARDED AND TRAINED

Garry Rhodes

PALMER KENNELS INC.



352 GREAT RD.

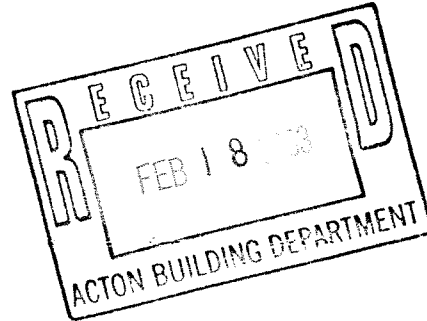
ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01720

FEB 12

2/24

(4)

Acton Town Manager
Acton Board of Selectmen
Acton Town Hall
Main Street
Acton, MA 01720



February 11, 2003

Dear Don Johnson and Board of Selectmen,

I don't know how to simply state my feelings about last night's meeting about the kennel.

If I can start from the beginning, we are in the position we are now because of a faulty system in the town of Acton. We are before you asking for permission to move our family business of 52 years approximately 500 feet to a better suited location so that Quail Ridge Country Club can be built.

When this whole process started, our family owned about 150 acres + or - in town. On this property there were two house lots of about 3 to 4 acres which belonged to my mother and brother. A third lot of about 140 acres was set aside and never subdivided and this lot encompassed the kennel complex and my house.

When we decided to move forward with QRCC the only possible place to relocate the kennel was where we are now trying to locate it. How and why this has needed numerous meetings, town meetings, selectmen meetings and other meetings is beyond my comprehension. We were only asking to move our business from one side of our 140 acre lot to a better suited location on the same lot. Something was lost in the translation and we are where we are today because of over zealous people who think we are cheating or pushing the system to our favor.

For the record let me state I am not "rich" or a "millionaire". I'm a dog kennel owner who goes to work 7 days a week to provide a living for my

family. I work very hard at what I do, and believe that I run a successful kennel that is one of the older businesses in town. I believe that my father would be proud that I have tried to keep his legacy. When I hear that we don't care about our neighbors it upsets me to my core. To think my father located the kennel here in 1951 and bought enough land as to protect himself and his neighbors; and to now have neighbors of few years that want to regulate how my business is run must make him turn in his grave. We have people like Mike Eder who goes out of his way to distribute myths and lies to all our abutters by way of taping notices to their mailboxes without even the backbone to address them with his name.

What has Acton become?

I am sorry I'm rambling along.

In closing I would like to simply state that I need to move my existsting kennel business to a new location. The new facility will be no larger than what I have now. We will still be able to board a maximum of two hundred dogs, not one more than I am able to board now. I need to conduct my boarding business in the same way as it has been successfully run for the past 52 years. In doing so, Ron Peabody is willing to build me a facility at the cost of 1 million dollars to try to absorb the sounds of a boarding kennel. I feel that all concerns can be reduced by a substantial amount. I will not consent to conditions that I know I can not abide by or that micro-manage the way that I run my kennel. I hope that the benefits that my kennel will provide the people of Acton far out weigh the complaints of very few people.

Lastly if the kennel is not moved, we will continue to provide our boarding business in its current location, which would likely jeopardize the future of QRCC.

Sincerely,



Tack Palmer

DON,

CC: BOS
G. RHODES

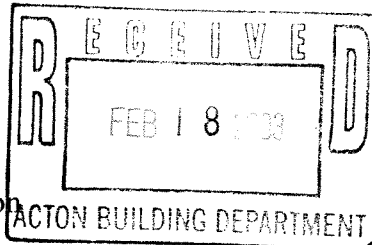
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7/2/20

I AM A CONDO OWNER & LIVE
AT 9 WAMPUS AVE. IN ACTON. I
HAVE HEARD THE DOGS BARKING
FROM THE KENNEL AT PALMERS & NOW
THEY WANT TO MOVE THEM CLOSER &
ADD ANOTHER 140 DOGS IS UN-
ACCEPTABLE. PLEASE DO SOMETHING.
DONT LET THEM DO THIS. THEY
SAY THEY WILL BE 1000' AWAY BUT I
THINK ITS MORE LIKE 500' AWAY.
PLEASE DONT LET THEM DO THIS TO ME &
THE OTHER FAMILIES ON WAMPUS AVE.

Michael Costello
9 Wampus Ave
Acton, MA 01720

Robert M. Lessard
Trustee and President
Crestfield Condominium Association
9 Wampus Ave. Unit 1
Acton, MA. 01720



BOS

February 14, 2003

(4)

Carry
over / Palmer

Ali Beyranevand
President
Alpine Property Management Corp.
Damonmill Sq., Suite EB-2S
Concord, MA. 01742

Dear Ali,

As I am sure you've heard by now, the Palmer Kennels new site plan in Acton was reviewed by the Acton Selectmen at the February 10 meeting. I was shocked that the dogs will be moved much closer to our property to make room for the new golf course's club house and parking lot. While I have no problem with the golf course, I have a serious problem with the dog kennel moving closer to us since the dogs have a tendency to bark and howl at night and disturb me even when I remove my hearing aid. If the barking bothers a person with a hearing loss like me, how much more would it bother a person with normal hearing? Would they want to live at Crestfield? Would they want to buy a condo at Crestfield? How much would the property values go down if there were more dogs and they were closer? I believe that our property values would go down and the ability to quietly enjoy our homes would be impacted in a detrimental fashion.

The folks at Palmer Kennel are planning to make some efforts to reduce the sound of barking and howling dogs, but my experience is that reducing noise is very difficult and that even acoustic tiles, like the ones I have in my living room, are of limited use and only help damper a human voice a little bit. They are of virtually no use for pianos, powerful sound systems and rap music let alone the howling of a large kennel of dogs that smell a rabbit or deer near by. Therefore, I conclude that while Palmer Kennel's attempt to reduce the noise is nice, unless a great deal of their money is spent on reducing the sound such as an acoustic dome over the whole area, it will not have a enough impact to make up for the increased volume of sound caused by the kennel moving closer to our property. Also, a structure capable of reducing the dogs' howling down to an acceptable level might not be in keeping with the town's Master Plan Update. This is stated on their WEB site as to "Preserve those elements or features, which contribute to Acton's New England town character as a suburban residential community with strong rural and historic roots."

Regardless of how well the Kennel is built, if the dogs are able to go outside via a opening blocked only by a "sound-reducing blanket", they will go outside and all join in on a group howling session while we folks at Crestfield are trying to sleep or quietly enjoy our homes. Then what good would any sound reducing tiles or blankets be?

Other condo owners at Crestfield have complained to me that they do not like hearing the dogs at the kennel barking. They feel it is unfair for the owners of the kennel to build a golf course clubhouse on the site of the current kennel and to plan to build a new kennel much closer to our homes. The wealthy get to play golf at an expensive country club, the land owner makes big profits, and we at Crestfield get to see our property values go down while we are forced to listen to howling dogs and have our rights violated.

At the Selectmen's meeting on February 10, 2003 a gentleman informed us that to approve the kennel in this location, the Selectmen must find a definitive positive finding that it will not be detrimental or injurious to the neighborhood in which it is to take action. State law and Acton's bylaw require this. Please check with our attorney and find out if this is true. Also, please take whatever actions are needed to safeguard the quality of life and the property values of the residents and owners of Crestfield Condominiums. You, as the property manager, and I, as a trustee and President of the Crestfield Condominium Association, have a duty to protect the rights and property value of Crestfield Condominiums.

Sincerely.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Lessard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert M. Lessard
President of the Crestfield Condominium Association

cc: The Town of Acton's Board of Selectmen

Christine Joyce

From: Charlie Kadlec
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2003 2:29 PM
To: Dore' Hunter
Subject: Noisy kennels

Garry Rhodes

G

Dore' :

I was getting a little frustrated last night at the BoS meeting listening to Mr. Peabody claim that the new kennels will be "much better" for the neighbors, sound-wise, than the existing ones and at the same time telling the BoS that it is too difficult to provide any information to support this claim. I am glad you asked for data. I am far from being an abutter, my frustration is technical. Having successfully resisted the temptation to get involved last night, I offer the following for whatever help it may be to you, although I suspect you already have a good knowledge of sound physics :

Sound intensity vs. distance follows the inverse square law. The distance from the location of the new kennels to the home of the gentleman who spoke several times (I do not know him) appears to be about 1/2 that of the distance to the existing kennels, so everything else being equal, the sound intensity from the new location can be expected to be four times the intensity from the existing location. Everything else is not equal, topography and vegetation play a role, but it is a good enough for an estimate.

The change in sound intensity converts to a change in decibels, the usual unit used for sound measurement involving human hearing by the formula : $(\text{change in db}) = 10 \log (I_a/I_b)$. For a ratio of I_a/I_b of 4, the increase is about 6 decibels -- not great, but it would be noticeable.

If the curtain material that Mr. Peabody proposes to use is intended for sound attenuation, I would expect the manufacturer to have data -- to use such data in their sales literature. There is of course much more to a rigorous analysis, starting with having to consider frequencies, but for a first try, having some information that shows that the curtain material provides 10 - 20 db of attenuation would be useful. If such information is not available, perhaps Mr. Peabody should look for some other material.

I do not need an answer, sending this to you reduces my frustration.

Charlie